

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4699

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USOECD

PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR E. PETERSON AND P. BARIO;
HEW FOR CAVAGNARO; FTC FOR FISCHBACH; DEPT FOR BRADEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, OECD
SUBJECT: CONSUMER POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AND WORKING
PARTY 5 MEETING

1. SUMMARY - THE OECD COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER POLICY (CCP) HELD SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 14-15, FOLLOWED BY MEETING JUNE 16-17 OF WORKING PARTY 5 ON UNDESIRABLE MARKETING PRACTICES. A BRIEF MEETING OF THE CCP BUREAU PRECEDED THE OPENING SESSION ON THE 14TH. THE COMMITTEE, AWARE THAT ITS MANDATE IS UP FOR RENEWAL BY COUNCIL, APPROVED DRAFT WORK PROGRAM FOR 1978, REVIEWED SEVERAL REPORTS AND DEFERRED ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS UNTIL NEXT MEETING. US DELEGATION, HEADED BY PATRICIA BARIO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOR MEDIA LIAISON, THE WHITE HOUSE, INCLUDED JOAN BRADEN, STATE DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, C.R. CAVAGNARO, HEW, OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, DR. EDWARD HEIDEN, CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, JOHN T. UNCLASSIFIED

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FISCHBACH, ROBERT BURKE, CPSC ALSO ATTENDED AS AN OBSERVER. BARIO AND CAVAGNARO PARTICIPATED IN BUREAU MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. THE COMMITTEE TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:
(A) HEARD REPORTS ON WP3 ACTIVITIES (PRODUCT SAFETY),
APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED DERESTRICTION OF WP REPORT

ON DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS RELATED TO PRODUCT-INVOLVED INJURIES; (B) APPROVED A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL URGING MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS ON PRODUCT-RELATED INJURIES; (C) HEARD REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF WP5 (UNDESIRABLE MARKETING PRACTICES); APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED DERESTRICTION OF WP5 REPORT ON PREMIUM OFFERS AND SIMILAR MARKETING PRACTICES; (D) DISCUSSED AND APPROVED THE COMMITTEE'S FUTURE PROGRAM OF WORK, MODIFIED TO INCLUDE U.S. PROPOSALS ADDING STUDY ITEMS ON IMPROVING CONSUMER ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKERS, PRODUCT LIABILITY ISSUES RELATED TO PRODUCT SAFETY, AND IMPACT ON CONSUMERS OF ENERGY CONSERVATION. A PROPOSAL BY GERMANY TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF INFORMATION LABELING WAS APPROVED FOLLOWING U.S. RESISTANCE TO PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE WORKING PARTY ON THE SUBJECT; (E) REVIEWED ANNUAL REPORTS ON CONSUMER POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES.

3. NEXT MEETING: EITHER MID-DECEMBER 1977 OR MID-JANUARY 1978, DEPENDING ON TIME OF COUNCIL ACTION TO RENEW COMMITTEE'S MANDATE.

4. WP5 ON UNDESIRABLE MARKETING PRACTICES

WP5 CONSIDERED IN DETAIL PARTS I AND II OF DRAFT REPORT
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ON MAIL ORDER SALES AND SIMILAR PRACTICES, LEAVING SECRETARIAT TO REDRAFT AND CIRCULATE REVISION PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING. ACTION ON PROPOSED GLOSSARY OF TERMS RELATING TO MARKETING PRACTICES AND ON FUTURE AREAS OF STUDY WAS DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT MEETING ON OCTOBER 13-14. C.R. CAVAGNARO REPRESENTED U.S. AT WP5 MEETING.
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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